

Lucien's
Chronicles
The Seventh Ritual



2019 Manpaint

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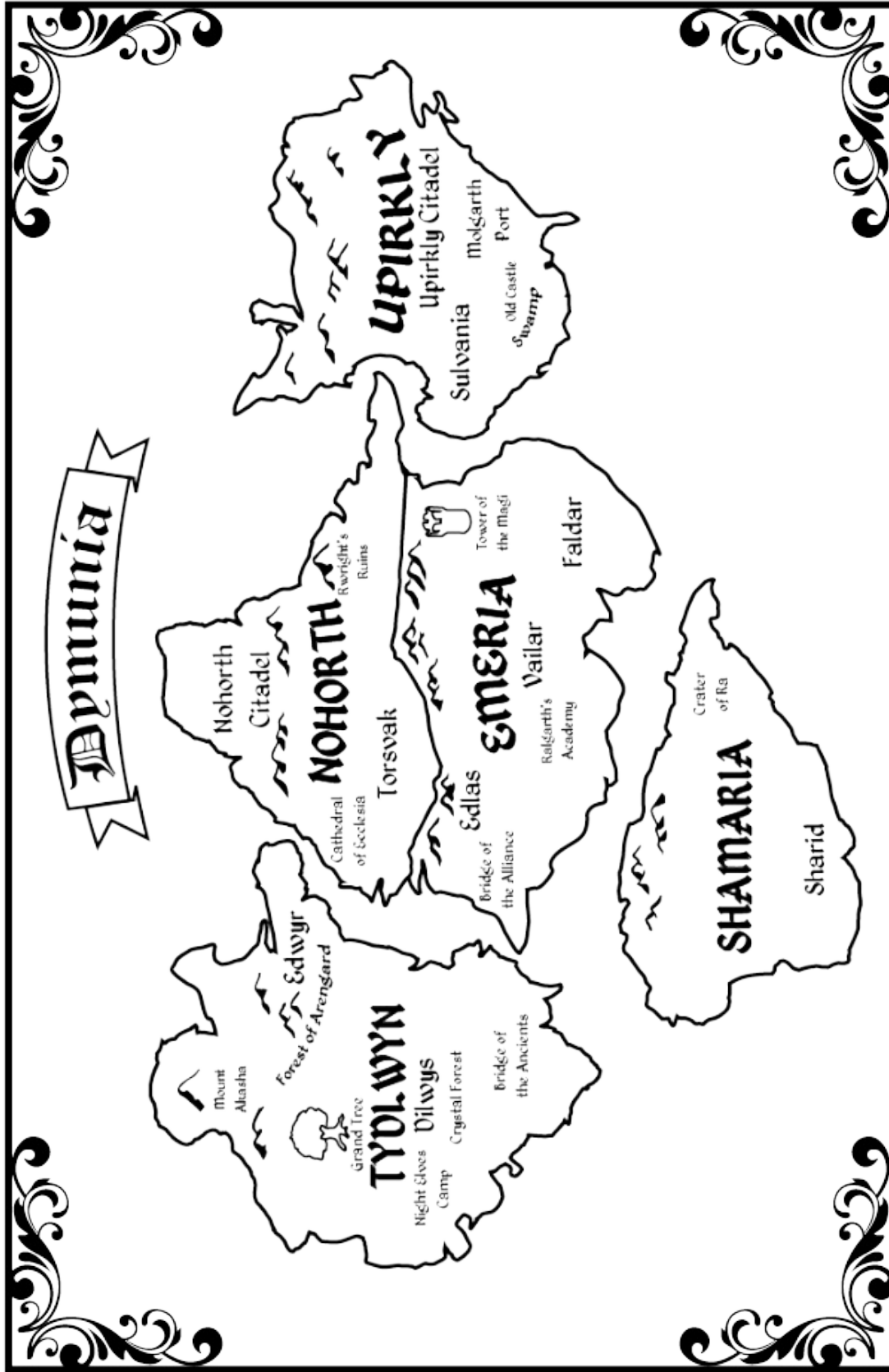
Lucien's Chronicles – Red Winter

The events of The Seventh Ritual are not directly tied to the aforementioned books aside from Red Winter.

Related games:

Black Ritual

Dymunia



Prologue

Year 40 of Pnyre

A raven woke up Lucien. The sun had already set and everyone else was already asleep. The vampire liked being asleep as it was probably the closest thing to being dead. The raven brought a sealed message. After ensuring he was alone in the Helliosian Cathedral, he opened it. A council would soon to be held at the Tower of the Magi in Emeria, another continent. Lucien was part of the Magic Triumvirate as he was the greatest magician of all of the world of Dymunia. No one would ever surpass him because he had more knowledge than any mortal would ever have in their lifetime. Lucien did not even remember why he was cursed with eternal life to begin with. His memories of the distant past were slowly starting to fade away. Luckily for him, the religion of his own construct had created magical books that are used to store memories. The Helliosians call them Scientacles. For his whole life Lucien has been serving the god of light as he promised him salvation once his holy task would be completed. Death was his only quest in life. The curse protected him from all harm, and he was starting to get very tired to live. Before leaving the cathedral, Lucien took as blank Scientacle as it could be useful latter. Once outside, Lucien summoned his horse. Normally he would have been able to teleport to Emeria but this time he had to escort the new member of the Magic Triumvirate: Grindevlad. So, he headed east, to the small village of Molgarth.

Chapter I - Grindevlad

Once he reached Molgarth, Lucien immediately saw Grindevlad. He was not hard to spot as he was encircled by local villagers. Grindevlad was healing the sick with potions that he made. He was known for his healing and fighting prowess. Although he apparently did not master the art of teleportation yet. You could see the awe in the eyes of those who surrounded him. This is when Lucien realized that he would be a potential obstacle to fulfilling his holy task. He saw that this man could become very influential and powerful. Once he finished healing the sick, he approached immortal. "Are you ready to leave?" Lucien asked the magician. Grindevlad was easily distinguishable from others as he was wearing a black outfit with red stripes and had a swirly black mustache on his face. "Yes" he replied. After getting on our horses, we headed north-west to Sulvania village. When they had left, the night had fallen. It was easier for magicians to travel the night, as the common vulgus would not interrupt them, asking for favors. As the two travelled through the darkness, they heard the sounds of branches cracking, someone was approaching. It was a knight of the Church. The Church did not approve of the usage of Magic as they thought it was an art reserved for which is divine. So naturally, the Church and magicians were enemies. Lucien pointed his finger at the knight, ready to cast a fire spell that would incinerate him. Grindevlad prevented him from doing anything. The healer was right to do so as the knight planted his sword into the ground as to signal that he did not came here to fight. "Sir Grindevlad, I seek your services, my daughter she is..." the knight said. They both knew exactly what he was exactly. "Would this not violate the rules of your order?" Lucien asked. "Maybe, but there is no other way..."

Chapter II – Experimentations

After healing the knight's daughter, Grindevlad and Lucien reached Sulvania village. As they reached it in the morning, Grindevlad was flooded with requests. Meanwhile, the immortal was resting in an inn, thinking about how he could eliminate him. Lucien lost all empathy a long time ago, but he could not comprehend why he was wasting his time helping the lower cast. After Grindevlad was done, he invited Lucien to his house, north of the village, saying that he wanted to show him something. "You are the only one who can understand what I am about to show you" he said as he was magically unlocking the front door of his house. Once he entered his basement, Lucien realized what he was talking about. Grindevlad had set up an elaborate study where he conducted magical experiences. One element particularly intrigued him: there was a table with a dead elf body. "Only an Helliosian can understand the need to seek knowledge" Grindevlad said. He was right. Helliosism was a religion centered around the ideology that knowledge is power. The immortal now knew the reason why Grindevlad had been successful, it was because he went to lengths other never had before him. "Where did you got this corpse?" the immortal asked. He replied that he found it while exploring the swamp west of Molgarth one day. Grindevlad took a great interest into investigating how the mortal body work. According to him it is how he manage to make such efficient potions. This the doubts Lucien had; he was indeed an obstacle. The healer asked Lucien to keep this secret as others may misunderstand his intentions. As they took the boat to go to the city of Faldar, an idea started to form into the immortal's head. Something that would get rid of him. He could have just drowned him but the idea he just had would have a more... grandiose outcome.

Chapter III – Forgery

Lucien and Grindevlad stayed in an Inn in the city of Faldar. While the healer was sleeping, Lucien put his plan into execution. He infused the blank Scientacle he brought with a short memory. Memories themselves could not be faked but they could be presented in a way that they would be misleading. The immortal was going to frame Grindevlad as a monster in front of the Magic Triumvirate. This would surely get him out of the way. He knew that some would inevitably defend him but at the end, Lucien would further extend his influence and power. The immortal would get to write history once again. After finishing the Scientacle, he thought about what he could add to stir opposition even further. Lucien knew that the healer had a certain interest in Elven magic, in fact, he always thought that it was superior to the magic of humans and vampires. He would use this information to accuse him of kidnapping elves before experimenting on them. After all no one doubted the authority of the immortal. This plan was perfect. Once the morning came, they both headed to the Tower of the Magi, north of the city. Their progress was slowed down as a lot of sick people were waiting for the arrival of the healer. Even if they were both vampires in a human territory, they did not care. Lucien never helped anyone unless it was for a specific purpose. He sees the others as tools with a specific usage. After Grindevlad finished healing the unfortunate, they both reached a stone bridge. They were finally there. Grindevlad was not suspecting a thing. Lucien's plan was about to be set to execution.

Chapter IV – Triumvirate

As they arrived at the tower, Ralgarth was waiting their arrival. Just like the immortal and the healer he was also a member of the Magic Triumvirate. The council was about to start. What would have been a boring discussion about geopolitics was about to get very interesting. Once in our seat, I gave my Scientacle to Ralgarth. Grindevlad knew what a Scientacle was but he was totally oblivious about its content. Once the human mage opened the book, he was shocked. "As you can see, Grindevlad kidnaped and experimented on elves, attempting to replicate Elven magic" Lucien boldly lied. "Lies!" shouted the healer. Ralgarth knew that a memory could not be faked, so he raised his magic wand to point it at Grindevlad. The human was however not very young anymore and therefore, the vampire was quicker. He blocked his spell. After magically piercing a hole in the tower wall, he ran away while casting an invisibility spell. "I will write to the monarchies of Emeria and Upirky, we have to stop him" The immortal said. Ralgarth nodded.

Meanwhile, Grindevlad got heavily injured to the right arm. Once in Faldar, he removed his invisibility. The common vulgus was shocked to see him like that. "I was betrayed..." Grindevlad muttered.

The immortal's lie quickly spread. Soon everyone knew about the atrocities Grindevlad committed. This how the great Vampire-Elven war started. One side fighting at the sides of Lucien and the other in the ranks of Grindevlad. In the eyes of the humans and the elves, vampires were monsters and this conflict was the definitive proof of this.

Chapter V – Alliance

For Lucien this war was entertaining to watch but it had to not last forever as it would hinder the completion of his holy task. So once again, the immortal decided to take the matter into his own hands. He went to the Crystal Forest of Dilwys to make an alliance with the elves to resolve this conflict faster. With the recent events, the elves were not pleased to see a vampire, but Lucien's reputation was not unheard of. So, he was granted an audience with the king of elves, Rukiro. "What bring you into our lands, Lucien vi. Lecturnus?" the monarch asked. The immortal then explained that he was seeking an alliance. He told them that the number of Grindevlad's disciples was raising everyday and that they might launch a full-scale invasion. Those were lies of course. Rukiro eventually agreed and thus the Great Alliance of humans, elves and some vampires was formed. They would not tolerate the existence of Grindevlad.

Meanwhile Grindevlad created a large amount of Scientacles to share is knowledge of magic and the truth to his disciples. Being raised as an orphan there, the Helliosian Church joined his side. He would never forgive Lucien for ruining his dream of being part of the Magic Triumvirate. The world was against him. The healer knew that he would likely not win this conflict. Regardless he was going to fight until the very end. His only regret was that he will probably not see his son, Faust, grow up. A raven came to warn him that the Alliance was coming. The end was near. As Grindevlad contemplated the sunset he asked to himself why life was so cruel. All he ever wanted was to help others and yet... blood was going to flow.

Chapter VI – Confrontation

The Helliosian church was first raided by the Alliance. It was a bloodbath for the side of the healer as they greatly outnumbered them. Those who managed to survive ran to Grindevlad's Manor. His disciples were holding flaming torches, waiting for the army to arrive. After a few hours the Alliance came to end that war. Grindevlad's side fought with magic whereas elves and humans fought with weapons made of crystal and steel. To the surprise of everyone, Lucien rushed to the front line with only his knife. The disciples were experimented with magic but were no match to the skills of the immortal. Grindevlad stood in horror as Lucien slaughtered them all without casting a spell. Once they were all dead, the vampire and the elven king approached Grindevlad. Lucien planted his blood-stained blade into the ground. As Grindevlad was readying to counter was he was about to summon, he got backstabbed by Rukiro with his crystal spear. The healer would not be able to heal himself this time. 'Why... ?' Grindevlad muttered. Lucien did not answer, he decapitated him instead. As vampire and the elf entered the mansion, they discovered the child of Grindevlad. Rukiro stopped Lucien before he could slit his throat. 'He's only a child...' Rukiro started. "If you want to take care of him, make sure he never discovers the truth." Lucien replied. Rukiro nodded in agreement. The immortal then started to grab Grindevlad's research notes as he thought that this knowledge should not go to waste. Once he was done, He put the manor on fire with a spell. As he was walking out while holding Grindevlad's decapitated head, he saw terror in the eyes of the army. The world feared him. The immortal wrote history once again.

Chapter VII – Ritual

27 years latter

The new Helliosian church was built on top of the ruins of Grindevlad's manor. It was this year that the Seventh Ritual would happen. His holy task was to make sure that everything was set up in place for the arrival of the Helliosian Cult. Unlike the local religion, those came from the distant past, seeking the "promised land". No one beside the immortal knew that it was an elaborate scheme by the god Hellios to amass death energy. His plan was to seal the Fallen One in a place where time doesn't flow. After Grindevlad's death, there was not much trouble. He had to poison a religious leader by the name of Alexender Jovklai, but he was really just a minor inconvenience. The god of light promised salvation should he complete his holy task and that day finally came. Lucien stood still as the god purged his own disciple from reality to create death energy. Hellios then vanished. Lucien was still alive despite fulfilling his task. To add to the injury, he did not feel the presence of any god anymore. After cursing the name of the gods, a portal with a magician on the other side appeared in front of him. "Lucien Virata Lecturnus" the magician called. The immortal did not recognize this magician with black hair and glasses. "I am Pravos, the Lord of Time and I came from the future, let me show you." Lucien then saw with horror the distant future. He was horrified by the fact he lived 1075 years. "I will remove your curse in exchange for 21 years of servitude". Lucien agreed as it was a better deal than living forever. "Once you are done here, go to your home in the north, someone is waiting for you." Lucien nodded and Pravos disappeared.

To be continued in Red Winter and Dymunia